

CLAIMS

1. A method of functionally linking plural primary equipment units and a manager equipment unit likely to communicate with all the primary equipment units, characterized in that it comprises:

a preliminary step of storing presentations of equipment units in memory in the respective units or in the manager equipment unit, the presentation of each equipment unit containing at least one link to a function of the equipment unit; and

for linking a given primary equipment unit to the manager equipment unit and other primary equipment units already connected, the following steps :

recovering or selecting in the manager equipment unit the presentation of the given primary equipment unit,

composing a home page with the presentation of the manager equipment unit, the presentations of the other primary equipment units already linked and the presentation of the given primary equipment unit, and

downloading the home page from the manager equipment unit into all the equipment units to form a home page for all the equipment units in order that at least the primary equipment units can carry out the functions of the other equipment units.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that each presentation is displayed in several display modes, and preferably in text mode and in picture mode, and the home page in each equipment unit is displayed in

computer supplying a presentation to the primary equipment units C1 to C4 and IM. The central processor unit UC is considered only as a "host" for making input/output devices such as the screen EC, keyboard, mouse, etc. available to the primary equipment units C1 to C4.

Having recovered the presentations PRC1 to PRC4 of the applications available in the cards C1 to C4 and the presentation PRIM of the printer IM in step ET3, the manager equipment unit UC composes a home page from those presentations in step ET4. The home page is managed by the manager equipment unit UC which provides access to the applications from the home page and which downloads the home page into the primary equipment units C1 to C4 and IM if necessary.

Invoking one of the initial primary equipment units C1 to C4 and IM opens the home page and provides access to the applications grouped together in this way.

Alternatively, the home page is constructed under the control of the user, who selects the equipment units or the groups of equipment units to be associated.

The seventh example illustrates the introduction of a local "secondary" equipment unit, such as a screen EC, keyboard or mouse, into a group of equipment units, to facilitate more ergonomic use of the primary equipment units C1 to C4 and IM.

at least one of the display modes used in the equipment unit.

3. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the presentation of an equipment unit in the home page includes a departure anchor of a hyperlink toward a page of functions read in the equipment unit and containing links to functions of the equipment unit.

4. A method according to claim 1, including, at the time of a first connection of a primary equipment unit to the manager equipment unit, dynamic address allocation to said primary equipment unit by the manager equipment unit and transmission of the address by the manager equipment unit to the primary equipment units with the home page.

5. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of composing a home page is effected at least partly outside the manager equipment unit in secondary means which can be connected to the manager equipment unit via a telephone network or local network.

6. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the step of composing a home page comprises distribution of presentations of equipment units into daughter pages and constitution of a mother page with hyperlinks to the daughter pages.

7. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the steps of composing and downloading a home page

are replaced by steps of composing home pages by the manager equipment unit and loading them into primary equipment units, each of the home pages including the presentation of the respective primary equipment unit and presentations of applications in the manager equipment unit dedicated to the respective primary equipment unit.

8. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the steps of composing and downloading are replaced by the following steps:

composing a home page with the presentations of the other primary equipment units already linked and the presentation of the given primary equipment unit, and

downloading the home page from the manager equipment unit into all the primary equipment units as the home page for all the primary equipment units.

9. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the manager equipment unit and the primary equipment units are interconnected via a wireless transmission system or via a carrier current transmission system and are respectively a terminal adapted to be connected to a telephone network and electronic devices.

10. A method according to claim 1, characterized in that the manager equipment unit and primary equipment units are interconnected via a wireless transmission system or via a carrier current transmission system, and are respectively a microcomputer and terminals, the terminals being connected to a telephone network.

11. A method according to claim 1, characterized
in that the manager equipment unit and primary equipment
units are the central processor unit of a microcomputer
and electronic cards connected to a bus of the central
processor unit.

5

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